

SCENES IN MEXICO CITY AFTER OCCUPATION OF VERA CRUZ

It is announced that there will be a train for Americans to-night (Tuesday, April 6) for Coahuila. Although there are no postal facilities, I hope to get this off by friends. I understand an armed Mexican escort and a representative from the British Legation will accompany the train and that there is a steamer to take the refugees to the United States. I spent part of Holy Week in Vera Cruz. Three friends and myself made a very enjoyable visit to the U. S. S. Florida and met, among other officers, Admiral Fletcher, with whom we had a little chat on Mexican affairs. We found the Admiral an exceedingly pleasant, gray haired, spectacled, efficient looking man of 55 or 60 years of age.

On Easter Sunday a very few of us learned the first of the press despatches of that day concerning the Tampico incident, that is, the arrest of the sailors who went ashore for gasoline, their release, Admiral Mayo's demand for an apology and salute to the United States flag and the non-compliance up to that time with the latter part of the demand. This was absolutely the first public news of the affair and very few heard it.

I arrived in Mexico City Monday morning and learned of the Government censorship on all cables both inward and outward. Our office and others had to take code books to the cable office and translate cables before the censor.

Wednesday, April 15—Rumors that Huerta had returned answer to Admiral Mayo's demand for a salute in these terms: "We have other uses for our powder." Also rumors that the United States Atlantic fleet left Hampton Roads last night for Mexican waters. "El Palacio de Hierro," the largest department store in Mexico, burned; loss, \$6,000,000; insurance, \$2,000,000.

Monday, April 20—The newspapers at last came out with big headlines and explained the Tampico incident and the diplomatic tangle with the United States. They had not dared to do so before for fear of being suspended by the Government. Another warning through the embassy and consulate to Americans to leave Mexico. Reported that twenty-one United States battleships and two transports had arrived at Vera Cruz and Tampico, and that 10,000 troops were coming from Galveston. The regular train for Vera Cruz went in two sections and contained ten Pullmans instead of the usual two. Many Mexicans and Germans, as well as Americans, went.

Tuesday, April 21—Our troubles began. At exactly noon we heard the United States marines were to land in Vera Cruz at noon. At 1:20 o'clock a friend from the embassy said the marines had taken the Vera Cruz cable offices with some fighting. We heard the United States Congress had voted \$100,000 for the Mexican affair. At 4 P. M. from the cable office said they were "fighting like the devil" round the Vera Cruz cable office at that moment.

There were extra editions of the papers saying "Americans already killed in Vera Cruz" and a "hug" mob marched along the street at 1:50 of September and others and smashed a window in the New Porters Hotel. Mrs. Porter's hotel and the American Club are always the first to catch anything of that kind when anti-American feeling is rife. There was another jolt down by the St. Francis Hotel. We heard a rumor that the United States marines had stopped the Ypiranga (German flag) from discharging a cargo of 10,000 rifles and several million rounds of ammunition by force, but that in the process four Germans had been shot by the German crew.

I stopped in at the British Defence Organization headquarters, where there have been 500 or more mausers and ammunition for several months, and watched a small group of students tear off the bronze tablets from the statue of George Washington near by. They threw the tablets over the head and extended arm and tried to pull the statue down, but all the ropes broke. A dozen ruffians also calmly watched the proceedings. An Englishman standing beside me poked a little run at American slang by saying, "They are trying to pull George's leg."

Wednesday, April 22—The Mexican Herald (the only daily in English in Mexico city) did not appear this morning, and we hear a mob broke the presses last night. El Imparcial had a front page cartoon showing Huerta with a banner on which was a representation of the Virgin of Guadalupe (Mexico's patron saint) and a Mexican lady at its feet appealing to him for protection. It also stated that Eagle Pass and Laredo, Tex., had been taken by the Mexicans. El Independiente described the flight of the Texans from Eagle Pass as like that of a "Legion of Rats."

At 11:30 P. M. from the embassy, said United States marines had come as far as Orizaba on the Mexican Railroad. Practically all business houses on the three principal business streets, 5th of May street, San Francisco street and 15th of September street, kept their shutters up. Most of the stores kept one door open, though many were closed altogether.

At 1:30 appeared an extra of El Independiente saying the United States steamship Louisiana had been sunk by a torpedo discharged by the naval cadets in Vera Cruz, that ex-President Diaz was coming back to Mexico to fight the "cobardes invasores" (cowardly invaders), that if the Yankees attacked Tampico all the oil wells there would be not only and that O'Shaughnessy had been given his passports. At 5 P. M. appeared an extra of El Imparcial saying that Zapata and his troops would come to the aid of the Federal Government, and that more than 200 United States marines had been killed in Vera Cruz. Huerta gave O'Shaughnessy his passports and at the same time an invitation to his son's wedding, which has been set for tomorrow instead of next month. The 20th late in the evening smashed the windows and saw cases of the American drug stores and other stores.

Thursday, April 23—The Washington monument, given by Americans to Mexico in 1910 at the centennial of Mexican independence, was pulled down by a mob about 1 A. M. and dragged behind an automobile about one and one-half miles and left at the foot of the Juarez memorial. Soon after it was taken into the fire engine house. A small bust of Hidalgo and a Mexican flag were left on the pedestal. It is said some very prominent Mexicans took part in the affair, including at least one of the Huerta family.

Young Banker Describes the Anxious Days While Mobs Stoned Everything American—City Kept in Ignorance of Actual Happenings and Newspapers Start Wild Rumors—Pres. Wilson Caricatured

A vivid picture of the scenes in the city of Mexico following the occupation of Vera Cruz by the Americans is given in a letter just received in this city and printed below. The author is a young banker. The letter is written in the form of a diary. This is the first time this story has been told.

El Imparcial gave a list of arms and ammunition taken from the United States embassy Wednesday afternoon, including 100 rifles and two rapid fire guns. El Independiente began to call the gringos "cerdos" (pigs). El Pais, the Catholic daily, is somewhat more sober and gave as a rumor the sinking of the Carlos V., a Spanish cruiser which has been in Vera Cruz for several months, and stated that Brownsville, Tex., had been taken.

At noon an extra of El Independiente said: "The paid assassins of Wilson have shot down children and women in the streets of Vera Cruz," and contained a hideous cartoon representing Wilson's face with the words: "Look at it and spit at it. It is the infamous Woodrow Wilson. He is a hog on two feet." It also stated that Villa had placed himself at the disposal of Velasco for the defence of the country.

It was stated that the Banco de Lourdes and Mexico had furnished the Government \$500,000. An American said his bookkeeper came purposely to tell him, he had seen Zapata at a hotel. It was said the Government took most of the gasoline from the taxicab companies, so there are few taxis on the

streets of the Buen Tono cigar factory. Military bands marched with most of the processions and played the national anthem, which, by the way, is a very excellent piece of music. If not as stirring as the Marseillaise, it is more dignified.

We heard O'Shaughnessy went to the wedding, which took place at one of the small churches near the San Juan market, and that he went off with the wedding party toward Vera Cruz. The American schoolteachers in the Mexican public schools were discharged, as were the Americans in the employ of the Mexican Light and Power Company. A report is about that the American marines have taken forty locomotives and 300 cars at Japan and are coming to Mexico city.

The Geneva Hotel, a popular centre for Americans, was again searched for arms and what were found were given to recruits, who were then marched away. Rifles were also taken from the Swiss Shooting Club, and the Y. M. C. A. building, which played as prominent a part during the "Decena Tragica" (tragic ten days) when Madero fell, was searched, but only one rifle found. There is a rumor that two Americans

Madero party, who said Monterey, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes and Tampico were all in the hands of the rebels, that they were marching on San Luis Potosi, that the American invasion was all bluff on Huerta's part to get up an army, that as soon as the recruits were sent out by trains ostensibly bound for Vera Cruz they were turned north to fight the Carranistas, that they deserted as fast as they could, that others sent back word to Mexico city as to how they had been fooled and that they and others had given Huerta seventy-two hours in which to get out. After considering the authority for the report I was inclined to believe it, and passed it on to the British defence headquarters, where it was thought to sound reasonable.

Friday, April 24—A train for British and German subjects was supposed to leave at 8:30 A. M. for Coahuila. The British Minister was said to have given his word that no Americans would go on it. The train left at 4 P. M., and I hear that the passengers were carefully checked up with the registered list and some Americans taken off the train. One man going under the name "Meyer" lost his list of German words and jumped off before the inspectors reached him.

American stores suffered severely. Shutters were no protection. In several the mobs were content with smashing the show windows and contents. The employees of the M. C. Bank (American) were taken to the comiseria for having a case of mausers on the premises, a case left over from a couple of years ago, when the United States Government distributed rifles to the American colony here.

The Spanish Minister received definite information that the Carlos V. was unharmed. A great deal of tension in the atmosphere was cleared up by this news. There was decided relief, and some began to suspect that the report that the 800 Mexican prisoners in Fort Bliss had been shot by the Americans was also a "moutira" (lie).

A train of cars belonging to a mining company in El Oro arrived at 5 A. M.



A hideous cartoon representing President Wilson's face, which appeared in a noon extra of "El Independiente," Mexico city, on Thursday, April 23, over the following caption: "Look at it and spit at it. It is the infamous Woodrow Wilson. He is a hog on two feet." The extra lead off with a scare head which said, "The paid assassins of Wilson have shot down children and women in the streets of Vera Cruz."



The mob in Mexico street after the news of the occupation of Vera Cruz became public.

streets. There were numerous patriotic processions about the streets, among them nurses, school children and the

and at 6 P. M. a train from Aguascalientes and other points. These brought most of the foreigners from those di-

rections. Many of them had very narrow escapes, for feeling in the small towns where the natives are presum-

AMERICAN WOMAN'S STORY OF HER FLIGHT OUT OF MEXICO

This is an American woman's narrative of her flight out of Mexico. With her were her husband and two children. Aside from the exciting incidents of the journey from Guanajuato, the story presents an interesting picture of the situation in Mexico.

WORD of impending trouble first came to Guanajuato on Thursday, April 16, through a telegram sent to the manager of one of the mining companies there advising him to send his wife and children to Vera Cruz. Just what could be the occasion for alarm we had no idea. A strict censorship had recently been placed on all cables into Mexico and the newspapers were permitted to print only such news as the Government officials were giving out. We had received warning so many times and had had so many scares that it was well nigh impossible to get properly disturbed this time. It was the old story of the boy and the wolf.

The first group of Americans to leave Guanajuato went on the following Tuesday and we were only a mere handful, numbering eighteen out of a foreign colony of about 225. It was on that Tuesday, April 21, that the United States seized the custom house at Vera Cruz, and by 4 o'clock in the afternoon word had penetrated throughout that large central section of Mexico that the fighting had begun in Vera Cruz. The people of the city of Guanajuato were not excited, however, and they let us depart in peace, giving no outward manifestation of resentment. So we started out with nothing to warn us of what might be ahead.

Guanajuato is situated off the main railway line and is reached by a local branch line which joins the main road at Silao. Here we left the local train, intending to take the through night train from Zacatecas to Mexico city. We had scarcely stepped off the train before the Mexican coast guard agent told one of the American men in our party that the Pullman on the train we were waiting for was to be cut off by a mob at a station a little distance north of Silao. He

advised us to continue as far as Irapuato, where we could catch the night train from the west in case the one from the north did not come through. We took his advice and reached Irapuato safely an hour later.

There we waited until about 11:30 P. M. when the train from the west pulled in, and at the same time we learned that the mob had in fact cut off the Pullman of the Zacatecas train and had demanded all the gringos. Meanwhile a small crowd of Mexicans in Irapuato had decided that they would hold the five resident Americans there as hostages. However, these Americans had been warned by a friendly Mexican and the Federal authorities sent an armed detachment to escort them to the station. At the same time the Federals sent a force of mounted rurales to guard the train while in the station. These rurales lined up two feet apart on either side of the track.

The train was held until the train from the north, minus the Pullman, arrived at 2 A. M. Then we thought surely we should be allowed to proceed. But not yet!

After we had taken seats in the car a Mexican lieutenant and a force of soldiers entered and announced: "We have no orders to carry Americans." Then he and his men questioned us as to whether we were Americans. We were told to come with them and also to turn over to them all arms and ammunition. I thought it was the end of our chance of getting out of the country and possibly the end of us for all time. They took us off the train and led us to a colonel who was standing outside. He looked at us in surprise and said: "You are going on this train but are to ride in the Pullman." Can you imagine the rush of new life that swept over us?

As soon as we were in the Pullman the commander of the Federal forces in Irapuato, who was a good friend of the Americans, came aboard and said the order to leave the train and the taking of our arms and ammunition was all a mistake. He had with him the revolvers and pistols which our men had given up and explained that he would leave them with the Pullman conductor, who would take care of them and return them to their owners when we reached Mexico city. He was taking this precaution, he said, so that no one would be tempted to use his pistol in case of trouble and so cause further complications.

Two of the men with us had planned to return to Guanajuato after seeing the women folk safely on the train for Mexico city. They were not permitted to stay behind, however, for the Mexican authorities insisted that all Americans at the station must get on the train and stay there. A troop train was sent ahead and a heavy armed escort was on our train all the way from Irapuato to Mexico city.

The rest of the trip to Mexico city was made without mishap. All the next morning we ran through as tranquil a country as one could find anywhere. The people were going about their various tasks as undisturbed as if the great country north of them had never been heard of.

As we neared the city limits the conductor carefully pulled down all curtains in our cars, explaining that this was done so that no one might be tempted to throw a stone or other missile at us. When we reached the station in the city he requested us to keep our seats while he went out to see that all was quiet. He returned at once to say that there was no trouble, and we left his protecting care with a grateful feeling.

The automobiles of the American Embassy were at the station to meet us and carried us to the embassy building, and from there we were taken to the Hotel Geneva. This hotel, a little way out from the heart of the city, was situated in the concentration camp

and under the protection of the British Embassy. We reached Mexico city about 1 o'clock in the afternoon, and the next four or five hours will always be more or less of a nightmare to me. No one knew what to do or where to go. Every one had a different idea and every one had a new tale to tell of horrors or the possibility of horrors.

On Wednesday night a train was to leave the city under the protection of the British and German flags and Huerta had promised protection as far as the Federal outposts. Many preferred to stay in the Mexican capital rather than to take their chances in the train, but eleven of our party decided on the latter course. The mob in Mexico city had made several demonstrations on Tuesday evening, had broken the windows of the American Embassy and the American Hotel and had insulted pedestrians. Personally I preferred to make a try at getting out of the country at the quickest possible moment.

You must understand that at this time no one in the interior of Mexico doubted for a minute that intervention had come and that the United States troops would very soon be fighting their way to the city. The only question was, "How long will it take them to get there?"

We pulled out of Mexico city about 8:30 on the evening of April 22. Secretary Hobler of the British Legation, wearing his military uniform, travelled with us and all the trainmen and every one else wore under his instructions. Our engine was flying the British and German flags. Again the curtains of the cars were closely drawn. There were frequent cries of "Mueran los gringos" (Death to the Americans) and jeers from crowds at the stations until we were some distance from the city, but no shots were fired or stones thrown.

When we came to Esperanza, where the train starts down the mountain and descends 2,000 feet in two hours, the authorities gave us two inexperienced engineers and two engines that were quite useless in holding back our

ably more ignorant seems to have risen higher. At 5 P. M. an extra of El Independiente said: "United States Senate sanctions the aggression of the bandit Wilson." At 6 P. M. an extra of El Imparcial said: "The American Senate refuses to declare war." A trainload of wounded arrived from Torreon.

Saturday, April 25—Newspapers say Salina Cruz taken by the Americans. El Independiente had a cartoon of Bryan and Wilson put into a sausage grinder and turned into sausage, which the dogs refused to eat. El Pais said: "Five American spies have been brought to the capital from Pachuca." However, every one was feeling much better. Even our messenger boy said people were coming to believe the whole matter was a big "moutira" (lie). There is a rumor that the Powers had given Huerta seventy hours. Most of the stores opened up and half the shutters came down. Most of the Mexicans I saw looked sleepy, sad and ashamed. At the office, however, a note was received saying my two American colleagues would be assassinated. I felt slighted. The police thought I nothing.

A report is about that the United States had recognized Carranza on April 22, that he and Villa had promised to come to Mexico city and not fire a shot. E. S. said that V., a Mexican, said that U., a "Diputado" (Member of Congress), said a strong feeling was working up against Huerta. A report that Huerta was already in hiding; another that he had taken refuge at the British Legation.

A train of wounded from Torreon arrived—Velasco and Carranza wounded. A mean story was to the effect that Velasco had some one shoot him in the arm.

The British and the British flag were never as popular among Americans. Some timid Americans had already begun wearing small Union Jacks on their

heavy train. Fortunately for us we had with us the superior protection of power of the Mexican railroad and another railway official, and they were up all night, getting out at every station to see what engines and engineers we had and looking after things generally. They refused to let the train proceed until proper equipment and men were provided, and after a pause the refusal on the part of the authorities and a delay of two hours the equipment and engineers were furnished and we proceeded.

Later these railway officials were arrested, taken from the train, and led away by a detachment of ten men; but through the friendship of one of them for Commander Azueta of the Mexican navy they were promptly released and allowed to board the train again and continue to the coast.

At another point during the night men boarded the train looking for "gringos," so they said. They demanded all arms and then departed. Again the next morning the train was held up for a long time while the authorities went through all the cars hunting for newspapers men who were said to be aboard. We reached the break in the railroad about 2 o'clock in the afternoon and all got out, carrying hand baggage, which was all we were allowed to bring with us, and walked over the destroyed section of the track under a large flag of truce. This stretch proved to be only a mile in length. The Mexicans had removed the spikes, had carried the rails a little distance away, and had taken up the ties and burned them.

At the end of the mile we found a little engine flying the British flag and I fear that to some of us the United States flag will never look quite so good as that flag of Great Britain did then. It meant safety, whereas the Stars and Stripes would have meant danger. For two days we had dreaded to have our nativity known.

The marines were everywhere in evidence here and they certainly "looked good" to us. They were a fine, manly, well-disciplined body of men—men any country should be proud of.

Some one said it had been open season on "gachupines" (nickname for Spaniards) too long for them to take any more responsibility. Some one else was reminded of Holy Francis's famous words in the Spanish-American war that he was going to make "the Spanish language the most popular language in hell for the next ten years."

It will be interesting to watch the disappearance of the Spanish and possibly of the British flags when and if Villa comes to Mexico city. Personally I am not going to use any flag if I can't use a United States flag. When Villa comes I have vowed to hang out a famous pair of red pajamas I have.

A late extra of El Imparcial gave an entire page or more to quoting La Opinion of Vera Cruz as to what really did happen there. From that it seems that there were nearer ten or twelve casualties than "more than 200 dead gringos," and it is beginning to be clear that the Americans intend merely to continue holding Vera Cruz till Huerta gets out. So after five very anxious days of rumors and uncertainties we seem to at last be getting to know the truth.

Sunday, April 26—Sunday has a reputation in Mexico for bringing climaxes, and one was expected to-day. Nothing more than a parade of Government employees disturbed the Sabbath calm. I heard for the second time of a large body of Zapatistas having come into the suburbs to accept the amnesty terms offered and go and fight the Yankees. I hurried off to get a photo of the Zapatista women who wear two or three cartridge belts, carry rifles and ride like men. I found none. It was a number of those cock and bull stories.

The suburbs were as peaceful as Central Park on a Sunday morn. The only excitement I found was a baseball game, one of the teams wearing bright red costumes. There are reports that the Zapatistas have taken Cuernavaca.

A train for English and Germans left. Dr. E. came in from Aguascalientes and barely escaped with his life. The natives out in the provinces still believe the Carlos V. was blown up and still think the 800 Federal prisoners in Fort Bliss were shot down and so are keen to take vengeance on any Americans they meet.

People in the United States will find it difficult to realize how little we really know of what is happening outside our little circle. I have not seen a half page of foreign news since Tuesday. So things stand! Some of us hopeful, others pessimistic and a large proportion anxious to leave by first available train if there is to be any.

BOUNTY ON HAIR SEALS.

Domestic Will Pay \$3.50 a Head on a Thousand.

New Westminster, B. C., May 16. It is announced by F. H. Cunningham, chief inspector of Dominion fisheries, that bounty will be paid during the coming year on another 1,000 hair seals. The first thousand seals, on which a bounty of \$3.50 a head came into force at the beginning of the year, have already been killed and paid for and the same price has now been placed on the head or rather the tail of each of another thousand.

Of the thousand seals on which bounty has been paid, only a dozen were shot in the Fraser River, although the department's patrolmen have reported seals in the river between Stevenson and the Sandheads in considerable numbers. While some were reported in February, they became much more plentiful later, twenty being sighted on March 4, while fifty-five were counted on March 10 and a hundred on April 19. Few river fishermen seem to have made any effort to get the seals, though their tails are worth \$5.50 each.